**Utilisation of Natural Gas in A.P.**

596. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and the quantity of LPG consumption of the State; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to utilise natural gas to its optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The present available natural gas of around 7.0 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) is being supplied to various consumers in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) While, currently no quantity of natural gas is being processed to extract Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) around 508 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of LPG was consumed during 2000-01 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) 7.0 MMSCMD, which is currently available in Andhra Pradesh, is being fully utilised. Efforts are also on to step up exploration activities, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-I and NELP-II.

**Special concessions to farmers on price of diesel**

†597. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of the farmers of the country is worsening due to the sale of diesel at equal rate for commercial vehicles as well as machines used for agricultural purposes in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to provide some special concesions to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.